

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Amaranthus greggii - Gregg's amaranth Amaranth family (Amaranthaceae)

Rarity Rank: S3/G4?

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

Range: LA, TX, south to Yucatan, Mexico

Recognition:

- Plants from taproots, erect or sprawling, often many stems branching from the base
- Leaves relatively few, thick, fleshy, leathery, prominently veined underneath, to 3.5 cm long
- Male and female flowers are on different plants (= dioecious), born in spikes or compact panicles from 5 to 15 cm long
- Seeds are lustrous brown or black, 1.3 to 1.8 mm in diameter

Flowering Time: Potentially year-round

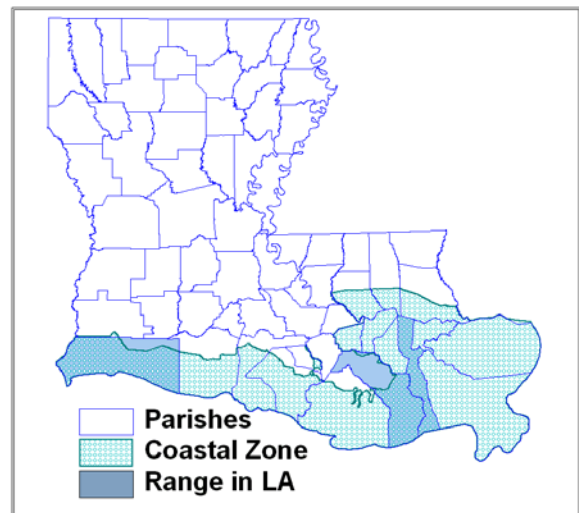
Light Requirement: Full sun

Wetland Indicator Status:

NI - No indicator

Habitat:

High energy beaches of both the Chenier Plain and Deltaic Plain; typical associates include seashore dropseed (*Sporobolus virginicus*), Amberique bean (*Strophostyles helvula*), sea rockets (*Cakile spp.*) and wiregrass (*Spartina patens*).



Threats:

- Shoreline erosion
- Cattle grazing
- Vehicular and excessive foot traffic

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Shoreline protection/nourishment
- Protection of beaches and dunes from vehicular traffic and cattle

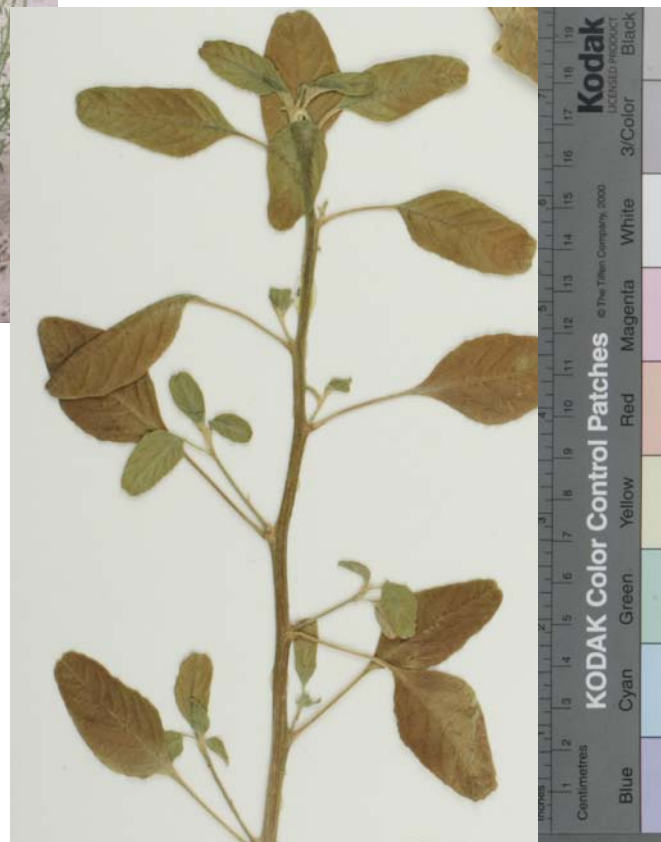
LA River Basins: Pontchartrain, Barataria, Terrebonne, Mermentau, Calcasieu, Sabine

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Above: *Amaranthus greggii* on a Cameron Parish beach.

Right: Herbarium specimen showing leaves (discoloration is from drying). Courtesy of LSU Herbarium.



References:

Correll, D. S. and M. C. Johnston. 1970. Manual of the Vascular Plants of Texas. Texas Research Foundation, Renner. 1881 pp.

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Richardson, A. 2002. Wildflowers and other plants of Texas beaches and islands. University of Texas Press, Austin. 247 pp.